

REMARKS

Applicants note that a portion of the Specification has been voluntarily amended to better reflect the structure shown in the figures.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-7 are allowed. The remarks herein address the rejected claims, claims 2-4 and 9. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Independent claims 2 and 3 have been amended, and are allowable for the reasons provided below.

Claim 2 has been rejected as being unpatenable over Tucker '753 in view of Smernoff '876. Tucker is relied upon for all the structure of claim 2, but for the vertical rib. Smernoff is relied upon for the vertical rib, and the Examiner contends it would have been obvious to modify Tucker in view of Smernoff to provide a rib to facilitate grasping.

Applicant has amended claim 2 to distinguish the claimed universal collar from the neck structure of Tucker '753. Particularly, the preamble is now employed to more specifically define the structure of the universal collar. In amended claim 2, a universal collar is secured to a container that is to be used in a dispenser that has a key plate including a keyway adapted to receive a complimentary shaped collar key associated with a specific intended container, but the body of the universal collar includes a keyless surface between the first and second flanges such that the universal collar bypasses the dispenser's keyway. Although not specifically stated in the claims, it should be apparent that this permits the use of an unintended container in the dispenser. The benefits of such a universal collar are set forth in detail in the subject patent application. Tucker '753 does not teach such a universal collar and, indeed, teaches away from such a collar inasmuch as it teaches the use of a keyway and a key, at the structures identified by the numerals 68 and 32.

Tucker '753 has also been relied upon to reject claims 3 and 4. However, claim 3 has been amended substantially as in claim 2, and, for the reasons provided above, Tucker fails to teach or suggest the universal collar of claims 3 and 4.

In light of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark L. Weber', is written over a horizontal line.

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